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SECURITY INFORMATION

50X1-HUM

COUNTRY East Germany

REPORT

TOPIC Military Information from Luckenwalde

EVALUATION

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DATE OF CONTENT

DATE OBTAINED

DATE PREPARED

28 July 1953

REFERENCES

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

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1. Between 1 and 8 July 1953, the Norddeutsche Maschinenfabrik, Luckenwalde, was occupied by about 500 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets without branch-of-service insignia. The strict security measures were discontinued. On 2 July, about 150 troops left the installation toward the swimming pool. No heavy weapons or motor vehicles were observed. On 8 July, Stalag I was occupied by about 800 troops and an estimated 25 rocket launchers. On 2 and 3 July, each four rocket launchers were seen in the barracks yard, with troops receiving instruction on the guns. On 1 July, 11 trucks towing 76.2-mm field guns and occupied by troops carrying full field pack entered the installation, coming from the direction of Luckenwalde.

On 3, 5 and 6 July, the guns were seen in the installation. Stalag I allegedly was under the command of one Colonel Buchkov (fnu).

On 8 July, Stalag II was occupied by an estimated 400 to 500 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia. On 1 July, 9 trucks each towing a 122-mm field howitzer, occupied by troops, the uniforms of which looked dirty.

2. At about 11 a.m. on 17 June, about 200 T-34 tanks, 100 JS tanks, rocket launchers, AA guns, AT guns and mortars passed through Luckenwalde on Highway No 101, coming from the direction of Jueterbog and proceeding toward Berlin. At about 8 p.m., another column, including amphibious vehicles, armored scout cars and radio trucks, was observed.³ The columns included a total of about 2,000 troops. On 25 June, martial law was lifted in the Luckenwalde district and Jueterbog. On 1 July, about 40 trucks, towing 20 x 57-mm AT guns and occupied by 200 troops, were seen en route from the direction of Berlin to the firing range southwest of Luckenwalde where the units erected a tent camp.²

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3. Comment. The estimates of the occupation of this installation, which probably is occupied by a training unit of the Third Gds Mecz Army, differ between 300 and 500 men.

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2. [] Comment. The information confirms the Stalag I and II occupied as previously by the 91st Gds RL Regt. [] 50X1-HUM
howitzer and field gun units of the 1st Mecz Div entered the installation on 1 July. []

[] These units, however, left Jueterbog for Doeberitz as early as 5 July. Compared with information [] 50X1-HUM
[] of paragraph 2, it does not appear impossible that units of the 1st Mecz Div from East Berlin transferred to the Luckenwalde area for advanced combat practice firing as early as 1 July. Elements of these units may have been quartered in Stalag I and II and other elements in a tent camp southwest of Luckenwalde. No information has been received on a retransfer of these elements to Doeberitz prior to 18 July. The unknown Colonel Buchkov (fnu) observed in Stalag I possibly is the commanding officer of the 91st Gds RL Regt. [] 50X1-HUM

3. [] Comment. These observations again confirm the transfer to East Berlin of large elements of the 14th Gds Mecz Div on 17 June. The number of 300 tanks is, however, too high for a mechanized division.

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